



# St. Teresa's School

~Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1930~



## Foundation Phase Newsletter 5      16 February 2017

### Reflection

#### The Potter and the Clay



At a recent Mercy Schools Management gathering, Bishop Kevin Downing led a reflection based on the Book of Jeremiah. It was a beautiful reminder of God's love and care for us. One of the most powerful analogies in the Bible regarding our transformation and sanctification in the Lord has to be the analogy of the potter and the clay. The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. God too moulds, transforms, and sanctifies us as we journey through this earthly life.

*'The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.'*

*Jeremiah 18:1-4*

### Dropping children in the mornings

Teaching our children independence is a very necessary and important life skill. We all want our children to be productive and grounded adults. We start instilling confidence, and thus independence, in small ways with tasks that are age appropriate for our children such as chores around the house. A child grows in confidence when they realise that they can do the chore; we can undermine this confidence by doing the chore for them, sending an indirect message that they are not capable.

#### **Grade 1,2 and 3**

Grade 3 girls should be walked to the school gate in the morning and greeted with a hug and kiss and left to go into school carrying their own bag.

Grade 2 girls who are confident enough to do this, should do so as well. They should definitely be carrying their own bag and unpacking it themselves in the classroom.

Grade 1 girls will be more ready to start to do these things towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. However, please allow your daughter to unpack her own bag in the classroom.

If you would like to remain for assembly, please do so by staying in the school grounds, but not in the classroom.

#### **Grade 00 and 0**

Once you have dropped your daughter in her classroom, please move out of the classroom area. Parents are welcome to socialise in the rest of the school grounds, but the classroom space needs to be respected as the children's space in the morning.

## General

All teachers have made you aware of the communication channel between you and the teacher – either a plastic envelope system or a book/diary system. Please use this system to communicate with your daughter's teacher. Please refrain from catching the teachers in the morning to tell them things that could have been written in the book. Teachers are either in the staffroom in the morning collaborating with other teachers, or in the classroom connecting with the girls. Should you need to have a meeting with your daughter's teacher, a suitable time can be arranged through the office or directly by emailing your teacher. Teachers' email addresses are formulated by using the first letter of their first name, followed by their surname @stteresas.co.za (e.g. [lelfick@stteresas.co.za](mailto:lelfick@stteresas.co.za)) – even those that were different before now, have been changed to this formula.

## Care Fund R150

This Fund enables the parents of each class to create a kitty, from which the Class Rep is able to purchase a gift or flowers and cards, on behalf of the class. Every year there are significant events, both celebratory and condolatory, experienced by some families within each class. As parents at St Teresa's, we would wish to be supportive during these happy and sad occasions. Class funds are held separately and each purchase is documented by the Class Rep and the office. Please send your R150 contribution in an envelope for attention of your Class Teacher. Thank you to those who have sent it in already.

## Valentine's Day Celebration - Friday 10 February



Thank you to you, our very generous parent body. The collection of goodies for the CHOC Carebags was so extensive that we were able to make 100 Carebags! Our Classrep committee were very busy this week putting the Carebags together. A Choc representative will attend our assembly the week after next to receive the Carebags. We are sure the bags will go far in making a hospital experience for a child with Cancer a more bearable one. Thank you all so much for your kind contributions, given with so much love.

**"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into our giving."**

**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**

## Open Day – Saturday 18 February 2017 (09h00 – 12h00)

The Grade 3 girls will be hostesses at our Open Day. They need to be dropped off at school at 08h30.

If any Grade 3 girl is unable to attend this function, please send in an explanatory letter.

Please advise friends and family about our Open Day, especially those with young baby girls!

We have long waiting lists for the next couple of years and the subsequent years are filling up fast!

## Medication for children at school



From after half-term, any medication that needs to be given on a daily basis must be accompanied by a letter of instruction from the Doctor with the dose clearly stated on it. Doses will only be altered on receipt of another letter from the doctor.



## Lice

Please be aware that there have been a few cases of head lice reported since the start of the new term. Kindly check your daughter's hair regularly and if you do encounter any uninvited visitors follow the instructions detailed in the Capitus Pediculi – Head Lice letter, which can be found on the D6 Communicator under **Resources** → **Foundation Phase General Information 2017**.

## Appropriate Dress when leaving school property

We were most distressed to receive a telephone call from an ex pupil to say she has seen one of our girls at Craighall Park Spar in her school dress, barefoot, in the shops. This was on the same day that two of our swimmers left for the day dressed only in their swimming costumes.

Please ensure that your daughter leaves either in her **full school uniform** (the blazer is not compulsory when it is very hot – please use your discretion) or in her **full Phys. Ed uniform**. This includes the appropriate shoes. **No** child may leave the school in a swimming costume or ballet clothes. This rule is for your daughter's safety, her pride in her school, as well as her development of awareness of appropriate dress in public.

### **Grade 00 & 0 Grandparent's Day – 15 March 2017 09h00 – 10h30**

This is a special day for all our Pre-Primary Grandparents or their proxy's or special family friends in lieu of a Grandparent to come to school during the school day. They will be entertained by the children and invited to visit the classroom after which they will share in a delicious tea. An invitation will follow closer to the time.

**Save the Date**

### **Dads and Daughters Dance – 24 March 2017**

This annual informal evening is always a hit with the girls. The high school hall is decorated and the girls and their dads enjoy the evening together. There is a DJ and food available for sale as well as photos. Save this Date!

### **Art Fair – 29 July**

This is a new event that will take place at the High School Campus. It will include the Art Galleries on Keyes Ave and blend into the Art Mile seamlessly. There will be things to see, things to buy, things to learn, things to experience and much much more. It promises to be fun as well as inspirational. Details to follow in the second term. Save the date!

### **School Closing times for Half Term - Thursday 23 February between 11h00 & 12h00 (please diarise)**

- Grades 0 & 00 to be collected from 11h00 – 11h30
- Grades 1, 2 & 3 to be collected from 11h30 – 12h00.
- Parents may collect from the aftercare gate to ease traffic congestion.
- Grades 0 & 00 aftercare 'regulars' will be sent to a/c at 11h15.
- Grades 1, 2 & 3 aftercare 'regulars' will be sent to a/c at 11h45.
- Children waiting to be collected will remain in the classroom.
- Children in the younger grades with older siblings can be collected at the same time as the older siblings.
- All children not collected by 12h15 will be sent to aftercare.

### **Road Safety**

All children **MUST** cross the road at the Pedestrian Crossing accompanied by their parent. Please **DO NOT** stop on the Pedestrian Crossing, nor allow your child to get in or out of the car directly into the road. They must always enter and exit the car on the pavement side.



### **Attention**




Please take care when locking your car and boot. It has been reported that there are remote jammers possibly active in the area. They have apparently evolved from just unlocking your car doors to being able to unlock your boot only. Your doors will still be locked but the boot will open. Items locked away in your boot will therefore be vulnerable



### **Buddha, our loyal laborador is looking for a loving home**

My parents are migrating to New Zealand but I can't go with them. They are now desperately looking for a new home for me. I am a free spirit that loves children and protecting my owners. I am an eight year old boy and I'm very healthy. Please phone my Mom, Pauline if you would love to have me. You can reach her on 083 291 9564 or at [pmeyer000@gmail.com](mailto:pmeyer000@gmail.com).

## DATES TO DIARISE

<b>Term 1</b>				
<b>February</b>				
Friday	17	tbc	♥	Catholic Schools Gala – ♥ A-team at Brescia ♥ B-team at St Teresa’s (High School pool Rosebank)
Saturday	18	09h00-12h00	♥	Open Day – Prospective New Pupils (Grade 3 – Hostesses) ♥ Grade 3’s to be here at 08h30
Thursday	23	11h00-12h00	♥	Close for Mid Term Break (See closing times in body of newsletter)
Tuesday	28	07h45	♥	Re-open after Mid Term Break ♥ Shrove Tuesday
<b>March</b>				
Wednesday	1		♥	Ash Wednesday
Friday	3		♥	World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)
Monday	6		♥	Travelling Bookshop
Tuesday	7		♥	Travelling Bookshop
Wednesday	15	09h00-10h30	♥	Grade 00,0 Grandparent’s Day
Friday	17		♥	St Patrick’s Day – Green civvies 
Monday	20		♥	School Holiday
Tuesday	21		♥	Public Holiday - Human Right’s Day
Friday	24	17h30	♥	Dads and Daughters’ Dance – <b>High School Hall Rosebank</b>
Wednesday	29		♥	Grade 2 outing to ‘Amazing Mazes’
Friday	31		♥	Extra Murals end for Term 1 ♥ Reports to Parents
<b>April</b>				
Monday	3		♥	Parent Consultations
Tuesday	4		♥	Parent Consultations
Friday	7		♥	School Closes
<b>Term 2</b>				
<b>May</b>				
Monday	1		♥	Public Holiday- Worker’s Day
Wednesday	3	07h45	♥	School Opens – Term 2

## MIDTERM WEEKEND AWAY

Burchell's Bush Lodge/Sabi River Sun  
 6 sleeper for only R4500  
 3 nights from 24 to 27 February  
 Contact Gina on 0824137538